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NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY ANTI-TERRORISM SUMMARY



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

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NORTH DAKOTA

BNSF railway back in operation after crash near Tioga. An Amtrak train in western North Dakota was operating normally again following a crash August 13 that left one man dead. The crash happened east of Tioga when a truck driver attempted to cross the track and collided with an oncoming train. The truck driver was killed and about 30 cars were derailed. The crash halted operation as officials conducted an investigation and cleanup of the sight. The track was back to full operation by August 14. A BNSF Railway spokeswoman said the train was carrying a variety of freight. Source: http://bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/bnsf-railway-back-in-operation-after-crash-near-tioga/article_2c9f8d6a-e71c-11e1-b762-001a4bcf887a.html?comment_form=true

Lone Steer Motel burns down. A roadside bar and motel in Steele, North Dakota, burned down August 12 and investigators believe it was a case of arson. They started an investigation for the person responsible for igniting the fire at the Lone Steer Motel. About 25 people were inside when the fire began on the second floor. It did not take long before flames engulfed the entire building. The Red Cross was present to help those displaced in the fire. The Steele police chief said everyone had a place to stay overnight. Several agencies were involved in the investigation, including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and the Kidder County's State Attorney. Source: http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=58651

Rumors of shooter near Williston tie up sheriff's office. A rumor that spun out of control August 8 shut down the Williams County, North Dakota 9-1-1 system and wasted hours of law enforcement time. The Williams County Sheriff's Office said it received a report August 8 from a man traveling on Highway 1804 claiming the driver's side mirror on his vehicle had been hit with a bullet, authorities said. Deputies searched the area, and met with residents in the immediate vicinity. No resident had heard any gunshots at the time of the alleged incident, said the captain of the Williams County Sheriff's Office. Deputies responded again later August 8 after receiving numerous reports from the public of someone shooting along Highway 1804, the captain said. Nothing was located in the area and callers could not provide vehicle or suspect information. The sheriff said he and at least five others with the department spent up to 3 hours investigating. The department received so many calls it had to shut its phone systems down, he said. Authorities are investigating how the rumor started and there could be consequences for individuals who were responsible, the sheriff said. Source: <http://www.dl-online.com/event/article/id/69278/>

TX man accused of murder in ND oil patch shooting. A Texas man accused in a fatal shooting August 4 at a crew camp in the western North Dakota oil patch was formally charged with murder, attempted murder, and terrorizing. The suspect is accused of killing one man and injuring another man, who was treated at a hospital and released. Authorities said the shooting happened late at night at the crew camp near Tioga. All three men were working for a Wisconsin-based pipeline company. The Williams County chief deputy said the suspect also is

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accused of threatening two other company workers. Source:

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/08/08/former-wife-of-nd-oil-patch-shooting-victim-reacts/>

REGIONAL

(Minnesota) New fruit pest confirmed in Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture confirmed a new fruit pest in the State, the Associated Press reported August 15. It is the spotted wing drosophila, or SWD. The invasive pest originated in Asia and was first detected in California in 2008. Since then the pest has spread to several western and eastern States. Members of the public reported the flies to the Minnesota agriculture department. A homeowner in Hennepin County found the flies in a trap placed near a raspberry patch. Maggots were found in wild raspberries picked in Ramsey County. The fly looks similar to small fruit flies found on overripe bananas. However, SWD feeds on healthy, ripening fruits such as raspberries, blackberries, and cherries. Source:

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/08/15/4729945/new-fruit-pest-confirmed-in-minnesota.html>

(Colorado) Anthrax outbreak on Colorado ranch kills cattle. Colorado's first anthrax outbreak in a generation was being investigated on a Logan County ranch, the State government confirmed, Food Safety News reported August 9. Anthrax, an infection caused by the spores produced by *Bacillus anthracis*, has reportedly killed at least 50 head of cattle on the Colorado ranch. Only bovine infections are likely to arise from the Colorado outbreak, but humans can become infected with anthrax by either breathing spores from infected animal products or eating undercooked meat from infected animals. Foodborne or gastrointestinal anthrax is rare. Colorado placed the ranch involved under quarantine and notified surrounding ranches about the outbreak. No cattle left the ranch before the quarantine, and no infected cattle entered the human food supply, the State veterinarian said. The anthrax was confirmed by a necropsy performed on a dead animal by the Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories. Cattle, people, and equipment were all being monitored to prevent the disease from leaving the quarantined ranch. During a drought like the one now affecting eastern Colorado, spores can develop naturally in the soils of riverbeds. During periods of rain or flood, these spores can become active and kill many animals quickly, often before anyone realizes they are infected. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2012/08/anthrax-outbreak-on-colorado-ranch/#.UCO1-6D6fEU>

(Montana) Southeastern Montana fire burns Highway Patrol communications tower. A southeastern Montana wildfire destroyed a Montana Highway Patrol communications tower and knocked out transmissions between dispatchers and troopers in nine counties, but officials said August 7, they were able to restore those links without any loss of response time. The tower burned August 6 in the 270-square-mile Rosebud complex of fires on and near the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. The tower was the main voice communications hub between highway patrol dispatchers in Helena and troopers in western Big Horn, Rosebud, Garfield, Treasure, Custer, Prairie, Powder River, McCone, and Carter counties, a spokesman said. With the tower destroyed, the voice transmissions had to be rerouted through local law enforcement agencies. Data transmissions could still be sent to and from headquarters through

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troopers' laptops, the spokesman said. Transmissions are expected to go through local agencies until the weekend of August 18, when the highway patrol plans to temporarily move communications equipment into a NorthWestern Energy building near the burned tower.

Source: http://missoulain.com/news/state-and-regional/wildfires/southeastern-montana-fire-burns-highway-patrol-communications-tower/article_88711bd8-e0f3-11e1-ac8c-001a4bcf887a.html

(South Dakota) Water plant problem prompts use restriction. Due to an equipment breakdown that hindered the municipal treatment system, Yankton, South Dakota, officials asked residents to voluntarily restrict water usage, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported August 8. The acting city manager said if citizens stop non-essential outdoor water activities, there will be plenty of water for normal household uses. Water Treatment Plant No. 2 has two basins used to mix chemicals and process them into the water, but one mixer broke down August 7. Complicating matters is that the company that manufactured the system has been out of business for 20 years. Without the capacity of the mixer, the treatment system can still produce about 5.5 million gallons per day (mgd) but demand for water is well above normal due to the drought, regularly surpassing 6 mgd. Officials said high demand had nothing to do with equipment failure, as it would be operating anyway. The city also faced challenges with a surface water intake in the Missouri River that became covered by a sandbar recently. As a result, its capacity was severely limited and a temporary intake was erected. Source: <http://www.yankton.net/articles/2012/08/08/community/doc5021e03f07a58470403978.txt>

Minnesota firm recalls ready-to-eat meat and poultry products due to potential Listeria monocytogenes contamination. Reichel Foods, a Rochester, Minnesota establishment, recalled approximately 15,880 pounds of ready-to-eat meat and poultry products due to possible contamination with Listeria monocytogenes, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service announced August 5. The products were shipped to distribution centers in Indiana, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Texas. The problem was discovered by the establishment, through microbiological testing by a third party. Source: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Recall_053_2012_Release/index.asp

(Minnesota) Serial robber strikes Mpls. bank — this time wearing rubber nose, sunglasses. Sporting a fake rubber nose and sunglasses, a nattily dressed gunman robbed a Minneapolis Guaranty Bank branch inside a Rainbow Foods store August 3 in what authorities said was at least his fifth bank holdup in recent months. He pointed a semiautomatic handgun at the teller, fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash, and remained at large. July 20, also around lunchtime on a Friday, the same man robbed a TCF Bank branch in a Cub Foods grocery store in Fridley. The FBI also suspects the man in bank robberies at banks in grocery stores in Plymouth, St. Louis Park, and Maple Grove. Four of the five have come on Fridays. The suspect's clothing selection has varied from bank to bank but has been consistently dapper, said an FBI spokesman. Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/minneapolis/165125666.html>

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NATIONAL

Sharpie parties fuel rampage on foreclosed homes. Five years into the U.S. foreclosure crisis, —Sharpie parties are a new form of blight on the landscape of boarded-up homes and the latest iteration of collective home-trashing spurred by social media, Reuters reported August 16. Partygoers are handed Sharpie pens on arrival by their hosts and urged to graffiti the walls — a destructive binge that often prompts other acts of vandalism including smashing holes in walls and doors, flooding bathrooms, and ripping up floors. At least six Sharpie parties were reported in one California county in recent months, where invitations posted online drew scores to foreclosed homes. The California spree follows a similar outbreak earlier this year, when teenagers wrecked homes in states including Texas, Florida, and Utah. In a recent case of —extensive destruction to a foreclosed property, the host of the Sharpie party posted an invitation on a Facebook page, and at least 100 people turned up, according to an investigator with the Merced, California district attorney's office. Three men were arrested on suspicion of felony vandalism, burglary, and conspiracy. One of them was the son of the evicted former owner. Banks that own the foreclosed homes are reluctant to pursue the perpetrators, a California realtor said, because they do not have the resources to hunt down the miscreants. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/16/us-usa-housing-vandals-idUSBRE87F0G220120816>

INTERNATIONAL

NATO employee charged with stealing secret data. A German civilian who worked at air command headquarters for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in Germany was charged with stealing secret data, federal prosecutors said August 7. The suspect was arrested August 6 on charges of obtaining state secrets with the intent to provide them to an unidentified third party, the prosecutors' spokesman said in a written statement. The NATO employee is alleged to have obtained the data and then transferred it to his private computer. NATO has about 500 people working at its headquarters at the U.S. military's Ramstein Air Base, about 10 to 20 percent of whom are civilians. It coordinates the alliance's air operations, and is also the headquarters for NATO's new European-based missile defense system currently under development. Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5happGc9pWr9oSAdQCNBLuf8ExiSA?dclid=3d600033354f4a1bad13fda1cf582ec7>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

Australia probes theft of 500,000 credit card numbers. Australian police said August 17 they were investigating the theft of some 500,000 credit card numbers which resulted in \$26.2 million worth of fraudulent transactions. —The Australian Federal Police can confirm it is currently investigating a series of merchants whose individual computer systems have been compromised, a spokeswoman said. Reports said eastern European hackers were responsible, although police did not confirm this, only saying that international and private sector cooperation was critical to its ability to target this type of fraud. Source:

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<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gc39LF04AH6EDIp5QvcbNNNmS9LA?docId=CNG.b448ea5b6d75e7807182aac9eed6898.611>

Nationwide phishing emails hit inboxes. Customers of Nationwide Building Society, a British mutual financial institution and the largest building society in the world, are being targeted with phishing emails purportedly coming from the company, GFI Labs reported August 13. The emails ask recipients to either validate their Internet banking profile or to solve an —unusual conflict between the customer number and profile details associated with their account. If they follow the offered links, the victims are redirected through many compromised sites to one that hosts the phishing page designed to look like it belongs to Nationwide. They are then asked to share security information that will allow the phishers to compromise their account. Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=13417>

Standard Chartered left U.S. vulnerable to terrorists. A rogue Standard Chartered Plc banking unit violated U.S. anti-money laundering laws by scheming with Iran to hide more than \$250 billion of transactions, and may lose its license to operate in New York State, a State banking regulator said August 6. The superintendent of the State's department of financial services said Standard Chartered Bank reaped hundreds of millions of dollars of fees by scheming with Iran's government despite U.S. economic sanctions to hide roughly 60,000 transactions from 2001 to 2010. The superintendent said the unit of the London-based bank was "apparently aided" by its consultant Deloitte & Touche LLP, which hid details from regulators, despite being under supervision by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and other regulators for other compliance failures. He also said that he was investigating "apparently similar" schemes to conduct business with other countries subject to U.S. sanctions, including Libya, Myanmar, and Sudan. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/06/us-standardchartered-iran-idUSBRE8750VM20120806?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews&rpc=71>

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

(Colorado) Reward offered for radioactive device stolen in Denver. A surface moisture density gauge containing radioactive material was stolen from the back of a pickup in Denver the week of July 30, and health officials warned whoever stole it not to crack it open. The gauge contains radioactive material that is safe, as long as it stays contained in the device. It was stolen sometime between July 30 and August 2, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The company that owns the stolen device was offering an unspecified reward. Source: http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_21249785/reward-offered-radioactive-device-stolen-denver?source=rss

(Tennessee) Y-12 break-in prompts overhaul of protective staff. The Presidential administration responded to a late July break-in and other protection shortfalls at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Tennessee by shifting critical site supervisors and temporarily relieving from duty certain defensive personnel, the Energy Secretary said August 3. A reported July 28 infiltration by three peace activists of the Y-12 section that houses atomic arms activities and bomb-grade uranium storage "was an unacceptable and deeply troubling breach," he said

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in remarks reported by the Knoxville News Sentinel. “Earlier this week we decided to halt nuclear operations at the site, the guards involved in this incident were suspended, the general manager of the contractor protective force and two members of his leadership team were removed from their positions, and all employees at the site are undergoing additional security training,” he stated. Another “relevant federal official at the site has been temporarily reassigned, pending the outcome of the investigation,” the Energy Secretary said. In an effort to harden the facility against potential intruders, the secretary said his department is consulting with a one-time Y-12 protection chief now serving as deputy leader of the Pantex Plant in Texas. An autonomous Energy probe is also set to take place under the Energy Department’s chief health, safety, and security officer. Source: <http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/y-12-break-prompts-overhaul-defensive-force/>

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

Bomb threats made to movie theaters nationwide. Police and fire departments responded to Carmike Cinemas locations across the country August 17 after a bomb threat was made to the company’s corporate office, the Raycom News Network reported. Hundreds of movie theaters in multiple states, including Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, North Carolina, Texas, and Virginia, had activity from emergency responders starting around 11:30 a.m. ET. There have been no reports of explosive devices found, and multiple Raycom stations announced local sites had been cleared by law enforcement. According to WSFA 12 Montgomery, Auburn, Alabama police said the threat originated at the corporate office, which is located in Columbus, Georgia. Carmike has not released a statement on the matter. Carmike said it operates 236 theaters in 35 states. It is the fourth largest movie theater chain in the country. Source: <http://www.kpho.com/story/19304904/bomb-threats-to-movie-theaters-across-country>

(Ohio) ‘Dark Knight’ copycat arrested at Ohio movie. A man was arrested at a Regal Cinemas in Westlake, Ohio, August 4 after he was discovered to be in possession of multiple weapons while sitting in an empty theater waiting for the show to start, the New York Daily News reported August 7. The suspect carried a satchel that raised suspicion when he entered the theater. After the suspect took a seat, an off-duty Westlake police officer who was providing security to the theater asked to search the bag. The officer found a loaded 9mm Glock handgun, multiple loaded magazines, and three knives inside, a Westlake police spokesman said. An additional knife was found underneath his clothes. The police added that being in the back row prevented anybody from being able to come up from behind the suspect, giving him a —tactical advantage. Police searched his truck in the parking lot and found a tactical vest, the station reported. Cops searched the suspect’s home August 6 and found an additional arsenal of six to eight pistols, rifles, shotguns, and hundreds of rounds of ammunition. Officers also discovered prescription medication in the home that may have prevented him from being able to own firearms. The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives have assisted with the investigation, but only State charges have been filed. Source: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/dark-knight-copycat-arrested-ohio-movie-theater-article-1.1130755>

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(Arizona) Suspect pleads guilty in Tucson shooting rampage after judge finds him mentally competent. A man pleaded guilty to the January 2011 shooting rampage in Tucson, Arizona, that left six dead and wounded a former U.S. Congresswoman and 12 others. The plea allows him to avoid the death penalty in a mass shooting that gained worldwide attention. Among the dead were Arizona's chief federal judge and a congressional aide. The federal judge presiding over the trial had previously found the man was mentally unfit to stand trial. He ruled August 7 that months of forcibly medicating him to treat his schizophrenia made him competent to understand the gravity of the charges and assist in his own defense. A court-appointed psychologist testified she believed he became competent after treatment. Source: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-504083_162-57488460-504083/jared-loughner-pleads-guilty-in-tucson-shooting-rampage-after-judge-finds-him-mentally-competent/

(Wisconsin) Officials: Suspect in Sikh temple shooting led white supremacist bands. The man accused of opening fire at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, was a less-than-honorably discharged U.S. Army veteran who may have been a white supremacist, said officials August 6. The suspect was shot and killed by police August 5 after police said he killed six members of the temple's congregation and seriously injured two others, as well as a police officer. During his 6 years in the Army, he was stationed in Texas and North Carolina in the psychological operations unit. Witnesses said the gunman fired at people in the parking lot, then moved into the temple. The suspect shot the first officer to respond eight or nine times at close range with a handgun. A second officer exchanged fire with the gunman, ultimately bringing him down. The injured congregants and police officer were in critical condition August 6. Source: <http://www.kktv.com/home/headlines/Police-dispatcher-Shooting-at-Sikh-temple-in--165064206.html>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

AT&T's DNS outage on Wednesday resulted from DDoS attack targeted at two locations. AT&T said August 16, that unknown attackers were responsible for intermittent disruptions that affected Internet services for its business customers August 15. In a statement, an AT&T spokesperson said a DDoS attack targeted the company's DNS infrastructure in two locations, and that engineers and SOC (Security Operations Center) staff worked to mitigate the situation. —Due to a distributed denial of service attack attempting to flood our Domain Name System servers in two locations, some AT&T business customers experienced intermittent disruptions in service on Wednesday. Our network and security teams quickly worked to mitigate the impact and service is currently running normally, the statement said. Source: <http://www.securityweek.com/ddos-attack-caused-att-dns-outage-wednesday>

AT&T hit by DDoS attack, suffers DNS outage. A distributed denial-of-service attack aimed at AT&T's DNS (Domain Name System) servers disrupted data traffic for some of the company's customers. The multi-hour attack began early August 15 Pacific Standard Time. —Due to a distributed denial of service attack attempting to flood our Domain Name System servers in two locations, some AT&T business customers are experiencing intermittent disruptions in service, an AT&T spokesman told IDG News Service by email. —Restoration efforts are underway and

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we apologize for any inconvenience to our customers. The attack appeared to have affected enterprise customers using AT&T's managed services DNS product. Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/260940/atandt_hit_by_ddos_attack_suffers_dns_outage.html

Text spam bombards US cell phone users. More than two-thirds of cell phone owners that use text messaging have received text spam, with 25 percent receiving spam at least once a week, according to a survey by the Pew Research Center, Infosecurity reported August 3. In addition, 68 percent of cell phone users have received unwanted sales and marketing calls, with one-quarter receiving calls a few times a week or more frequently, according to the survey of 1,954 cell phone owners in the United States. Smartphone users reported higher incidents of text spam and unwanted sales calls. Source: <http://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/view/27390/text-spam-bombards-us-cell-phone-users/>

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

GE recalls dishwashers due to fire hazard. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with GE Appliances, August 9 announced a voluntary recall of about 1.3 million GE, GE Adora, GE Eterna, GE Profile, and Hotpoint dishwashers. An electrical failure in the dishwasher's heating element can pose a fire hazard. GE has received 15 reports of dishwasher heating element failures, including seven reports of fires, three of which caused extensive property damage. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled dishwashers, disconnect the electric supply by shutting off the fuse or circuit breaker controlling it, and inform all users of the dishwasher about the risk of fire. Source:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml12/12244.html>

DEFENSE/ INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR

Email trojan targeting defense, aerospace and other industries. What appears to be a targeted attack campaign against several high-value industries is using a trojan that employs rigged PDFs to deliver its payload. Targeting organizations in the defense, chemical, technology, and aerospace industries, the MyAgent trojan is primarily spreading through email as a zipped .exe file or PDF attachment, according to researchers at the FireEye Malware Intelligence Lab. FireEye examined a sample of MyAgent that, once executed, opens a PDF file titled —Health Insurance and Welfare Policy and then drops a second executable, titled —ABODE32.exe, in the temp directory, they say in their report. FireEye notes the —ABODE32.exe executable accesses Windows Protected Storage, which holds the passwords for Internet Explorer, Outlook, and other applications. Once the trojan infects its host machine, it communicates with its command and control (C&C) server, the user agent string and URI of which are hard-coded into MyAgent's binary. Also, FireEye noticed the malware loading different DLLs to communicate with its C&C server. Despite MyAgent's relatively high detection rate, its dynamic intermediary stages place it among what FireEye considers advanced malware. JavaScript within the PDF variety of MyAgent determines which version of Adobe Reader is running on its host and then deploys well-known exploits tailored to the specific version. If the machine is

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running any of Reader 9.0's predecessors, then MyAgent exploits the —Collab.getIcon() vulnerability. Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/email-trojan-tageting-defense-aerospace-and-other-industries-081612

(Maine) Portsmouth Naval Shipyard ups security. By 2013, a new, state-of-the-art entrance at Gate 2 of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, will be complete, the Portsmouth Herald reported August 6. The new gate will include anti-terrorism and other protection measures intended to improve security at the shipyard. Gate 1, the primary gate at the yard, already incorporates many of these measures. Work on Gate 2 began earlier during the summer of 2012, according to the shipyard's public affairs officer, and is scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2013, she said. The new gate will replace the current, outmoded one, which has two lanes with a small guard house in between. It is simply built with a small canopy over the top of the lanes and guard house. The new structure will have three inbound lanes, including one for trucks, two outbound lanes, and a significantly larger guard booth. Source: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20120806-NEWS-208060318>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Louisiana) Louisiana 'ambush' kills 2 deputies, wounds 2. Two law enforcement officers died and two were wounded in a series of apparently linked shootings early August 16 in LaPlace, Louisiana, authorities said. The first shooting happened in a parking lot for a steel plant, the St. John the Baptist sheriff said. The second happened when officers went to a trailer park to investigate the first shooting and were ambushed by a man armed with what the sheriff described as an assault rifle. A Louisiana State Police (LSP) colonel said multiple weapons were involved and at least 20 shots were fired. In addition to the two wounded law enforcement officers, two of the five people taken into custody were hospitalized with gunshot wounds, a LSP trooper said. One of the wounded officers was shot in the shoulder and is expected to survive, a law enforcement source said. Police do not believe anyone else involved in the shooting is at large. The shootings unfolded in the parking lot at the Bayout Steel Plant in LaPlace, about 25 miles west of New Orleans, when a man opened fire on a law enforcement officer working a traffic detail. Despite being shot multiple times, the officer was able to describe the suspect to dispatchers, the sheriff said. That description, along with a civilian report of a speeding car, led responding officers to a nearby trailer park. As the deputies were questioning two people, a man came outside and —ambushed my two officers, he said. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2012/08/16/justice/louisiana-officers->

GM recalls over 38,000 police Impalas in North America. General Motors Co (GM) is recalling more than 38,000 Chevrolet Impala police cars in North America because the lower front control arms could fracture, increasing the risk of crash. The recall, which does not affect non-police versions of the Impala, covers 36,413 cars in the United States and 1,713 in Canada, according to GM and documents filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). It covers cars from the 2008 to 2012 model years. GM said there have been no reports of accidents or injuries related to the issue. A fracture of the control arms, which support a vehicle's wheels, could lead to loss of control, according to NHTSA documents. Should a

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fracture occur, some tire —squeal or —chirping may be heard when turning at low speeds. The problem was discovered after GM received several reports from two police fleets of front lower control arms that fractured. The recall, which entails replacing both front, lower control arms, is expected to begin August 21. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/13/us-gm-recall-idUSBRE87C0FW20120813>

(California) Oakland police targeted by vandals. Vandals damaged two Oakland, California police cars near city hall and attempted to break a window at a police station early August 2 in a coordinated attack to protest a federal investigation into anarchist activity. A group calling itself the East Bay Uncontrollables said in an online post it was responsible for pouring glass etching fluid on the windshields of two unmarked police cars outside a police recruitment center in Frank Ogawa Plaza, slashing the tires on one vehicle, and splashing the acid-based fluid across the center's windows. In a separate pre-dawn incident, another vandal claimed to have damaged a window at a law enforcement station near Lake Merritt. An Oakland police officer at the recruitment center confirmed the attack August 3 and said no suspects were detained. The East Bay Uncontrollables said the attacks were designed to protest a Seattle grand jury's investigation into vandalism during May Day protests, "and to continue our struggle against the forces of the State and Capital at home." Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Oakland-police-targeted-by-vandals-3761360.php>

ENERGY

Gov't finalizes safety rule for offshore drilling. Government regulators issued a final set of safety rules for offshore drilling August 15, fine-tuning a series of emergency measures put in place after the catastrophic BP explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. The safety measures are intended to make sure oil flow can be stopped if there are problems. They deal with how the wells are designed and how the cement and barriers used to secure them are tested. The biggest change to the interim rules deals with industry standards broadly referenced as part of the rule. Industry groups, including the American Petroleum Institute, argued the rule was confusing and could introduce new risk into the system. The interim rules made mandatory some measures the industry made voluntary. The result was that some measures appeared to conflict with each other. The Interior Department said the final rules will cost the industry about \$131 million annually to comply, or about \$53 million less than the emergency rules. Among the changes, the department trimmed by about \$86 million its estimate for how much it will cost to test remotely operated underwater vehicles, such as those that provided video feeds of oil spilling into the gulf in 2010. Source: <http://www.chron.com/news/article/Gov-t-finalizes-safety-rule-for-offshore-drilling-3791372.php>

Atlantic storms keep oil, nat gas traders on edge. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) updated August 9 its Atlantic hurricane season prediction, raising the number of expected storms for the 2012 season. NOAA now expects to see 12 to 17 named storms, including 5 to 8 hurricanes — of which 2 to 3 could become major hurricanes, with winds of at least 111 miles per hour. That compares to an initial outlook released in May calling

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for 9 to 15 named storms. There have already been six named storms, including Ernesto, which briefly gained hurricane status and is currently a tropical storm near the coast of Mexico. Ernesto prompted the closure of Mexico's Gulf coast port of Veracruz and ports of Alvarado and Coatzacoalcas, according to the Associated Press. —Ernesto has been a reminder of the potential threat that the season poses to natural gas and oil supply, said an analyst with Summit Energy. —The storm passed through the southern part of the Bay of Campeche, which is home to some of Mexico's largest oil fields [and] Mexico is the third-largest exporter of oil to the U.S. after Canada and Saudi Arabia, he said. Source:

http://articles.marketwatch.com/2012-08-09/markets/33113242_1_gerry-bell-tropical-storm-debby-atlantic-storms

(California) Fire-hit Chevron Calif crude unit seen shut 6 mths. The sole crude distillation unit at Chevron's large Richmond, California refinery may be shut for at least 4-6 months after it experienced a fire the week of August 6, industry intelligence group IIR Energy said in a report. Investigators have found —extensive damage in the cooling towers, pipe racks, and heater tower, IIR Energy said. A Chevron spokesman reiterated August 13 that the No. 4 crude oil unit — the only one at the plant — was still shut down while other parts of the plant were operating. The fire erupted at a pump leaking a substance similar to diesel, according to a preliminary report the company filed with county pollution regulators. IIR Energy said Chevron had not yet decided whether it would continue to operate some secondary units that are running down on-hand feedstock inventories. The fire damaged the only atmospheric tower on the crude distillation unit (CDU), the unit that begins converting crude oil to motor fuel. The CDU makes feedstock for all other units at the refinery. The blaze, which broke out as workers and the refinery's fire department were evaluating a leak at the pump, sent 949 area residents to an area hospital complaining of respiratory problems and eye irritation among other symptoms. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/13/refinery-operations-richmond-idINL2E8JD27Z20120813>

Stuxnet cousin able to attack industrial control systems. Extensive analysis on a new cyber espionage weapon dubbed —Gauss was released August 10, stating the tool has capabilities to attack national critical infrastructure and steal financial data. Experts believe it was designed by the same source behind the state-sponsored Flame and Stuxnet cyberweapons, Gauss was discovered in June and was already found to have infected personal computers in Lebanon and other countries in the Middle East. The sophisticated malware, which not only steals system information but has a potentially dangerous —mysterious payload, also contains a module known as —Godel, which researchers concluded contains a weapon for attacking industrial control systems. Source: http://www.net-security.org/malware_news.php?id=2215

(Louisiana) Louisiana sinkhole roils local natural gas network. A sinkhole the size of a football field in southern Louisiana forced energy companies to halt nearby natural gas pipeline activity and draw down fuel from a local storage cavern, Reuters reported August 8. Chevron Corp's subsidiary, Bridgeline Holdings, declared force majeure on new injections into its salt dome storage facility near the sinkhole and the town of Napoleonville in Assumption Parish through the rest of 2012, according to a notice on its Web site. Natural gas traders said Chevron's move

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to purge the gas could push an additional 4 billion to 5 billion cubic feet of gas on the market. The sinkhole, which local media reported was 372-feet wide, was discovered near the cavern August 3. The Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation issued a Declaration of Emergency August 3 due to the sinkhole, and led authorities to order evacuations. The Texas Brine Company, which has a plugged salt cavern within 100 yards of the sinkhole, was ordered to investigate the site. Unexplained bubbles discovered in the region in recent months and reported tremors were under investigation. Enterprise Product Partners, owner of the Arcadian Gas Pipeline System, said it was forced to shut two 20-inch gas pipelines near the area. Crosstex Energy said the company shut a portion of its 36-inch natural gas pipeline, taking about 150 million cubic feet a day of supply offline. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/08/us-chevron-natgas-idUSBRE87716I20120808>

(Pennsylvania) Four accused of stealing copper from Limerick nuclear plant, other power substations. Four people who allegedly stole copper from several PECO substations, including one on Exelon Nuclear's Limerick Generating Station property in Limerick, Pennsylvania, were charged with felony burglary and related offenses, Montgomery News reported August 8. Lower Pottsgrove and Limerick police departments allege the four conspired and participated in varying capacities in burglarizing many PECO substations throughout Limerick, West Pottsgrove, Pottstown, and Lower Pottsgrove in 2010 and 2011, according to court documents. Local investigators met with one suspect in March 2012 after he became a suspect in copper thefts from surrounding substations from several power companies in Pottstown and Berks County after he —nearly lost his life during a theft of copper in Berks County, said court documents. Investigators said the thefts resulted in tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Investigators note that a suspect detailed how during the burglaries he, his wife, and two accomplices would drive to the location where the burglary would take place, and on most occasions his wife would drop him and at least one of the other two off at the location to carry out the alleged burglary. Source:

http://www.montgomerynews.com/articles/2012/08/08/springford_reporter_valley_item/news/doc5022828819472074065183.txt?viewmode=fullstory

(Texas) Study finds correlation between injection wells and small earthquakes. Most earthquakes in the Barnett Shale region of north Texas occur within a few miles of one or more injection wells used to dispose of wastes associated with petroleum production such as hydraulic fracturing fluids, according to new research from the University of Texas at Austin, Homeland Security News Wire reported August 7. None of the quakes identified in the 2-year study were strong enough to pose a danger to the public. The scientist who authored the study analyzed seismic data collected between November 2009 and September 2011 by the EarthScope USArray Program, a National Science Foundation-funded network of broadband seismometers from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the high density of instruments, 25 in or near the Barnett Shale, the scientist was able to detect earthquakes down to magnitude 1.5, far too weak for people to feel at the surface. He found the most reliably located earthquakes — those accurate to within about 0.9 miles — occurred in 8 groups, all within 2 miles of one or more injection wells. Before this study, the National Earthquake Information Center had only identified two earthquake groups in the area strongly associated

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with specific injection wells. This suggests injection-triggered earthquakes are far more common than is generally recognized. Source:

<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20120807-study-finds-correlation-between-injection-wells-and-small-earthquakes>

(California) Blaze out at Chevron Bay Area refinery; gasoline spikes. A fire that shut Chevron Corp's Richmond plant, the second-largest refinery in California, was extinguished August 7 as fears of a months-long closure caused a 25-cent spike in regional gasoline prices. The fire that spewed flames and a column of smoke high above the densely populated industrial suburb of east San Francisco Bay started late the afternoon of August 6 and was contained 5 hours later, then extinguished, Chevron said. Officials allowed a small controlled burn to continue, the firm said. The 245,000-barrels-per-day (bpd) plant, which accounts for one-eighth of California's refining capacity, was partially shut down. An order for more than 100,000 nearby residents to remain indoors was lifted, and local transit stations reopened, authorities said. About 200 people sought medical help, complaining of respiratory problems, the San Pablo, California-based Doctors Medical Center said. The Kaiser Permanente Richmond Medical Center said it saw about 150 people with similar concerns but had no admissions. The fire started in the No. 4 crude unit, the only one at the plant, Chevron said. As the leak grew, workers were evacuated. The company said there had been only one injury, which it described as minor, among workers. The extent of damage was not clear. Any lengthy disruption in production could affect the supply of fuel on the West Coast, particularly gasoline, due to the difficulty in meeting California's super-clean specifications. The region also has few alternative supply sources. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/07/us-chevron-refinery-idUSBRE8760MK20120807?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews>

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Drought worsens; 87 percent of corn crop affected. The weekly Drought Monitor showed few notable improvements and some serious degradation as more than 60 percent of the nation copes with drought conditions, Ag Professional reported August 17. As of the week of August 6, 87 percent of the corn crop was impacted by the drought, with more than half in extreme to exceptional drought. —The primary corn and soybean agriculture belt has been especially hard-hit by drought the last four months, the Palmer index reported. —By the end of July 2012, about 86 percent of the primary corn and soybean belt was experiencing moderate to extreme drought, surpassing all previous droughts except those in 1988 and the 1930s. Even with the lower temperatures and scattered light rain showers for some areas, exceptional drought doubled in the High Plains, jumping from 8 to 16 percent. Exceptional drought in the Midwest jumped to 8 percent from 6 percent. Indiana saw improvement as areas in extreme to exceptional drought dropped from 69 percent to 46 percent. However, Kansas and Missouri reported significant jumps in exceptional drought conditions. Kansas was wrapped with exceptional drought, which now makes up 63 percent of the State. Source: <http://www.agprofessional.com/news/El-Nino-lingers-on-the-horizon-as-drought-worsens-166432156.html>

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After drought blights crops, US farmers face toxin threat. The worst U.S. drought in 5 decades has parched the land and decimated crops. It now threatens to deal a second blow to farmers, who may have to throw out tons of toxic feed, Reuters reported August 16. Growers are rushing to check the nitrate levels of that silage, the stalks and leaves that corn farmers often harvest to feed to locally raised cattle or hogs. Agriculture groups warned farmers that drought-hit plants may have failed to process nitrogen fertilizer due to stunted growth, making them poisonous to livestock. Exceptionally early spring planting has caused a crush of early summer requests for the tests. Farmers are also expected to chop down a near-record swathe of their fields for silage to make up for the poor yields. Two months of dry weather and high heat that stunted plants and shriveled ears likely caused the absorption of excessive amounts of nitrogen, experts said. Instead of being distributed safely through the plant, the chemical built up in the lower portions of the stalk at potentially toxic levels. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/16/usa-corn-nitrate-idUSL2E8JFA3Z20120816>

Italy's crop damage from drought seen close to 1 billion euros - Businessweek. Italian farmers have suffered close to \$1.23 billion in crop damage from drought, with losses in corn, wine grapes, and sugar beets, farm-industry organization Confagricoltura reported, according to Bloomberg News August 13. Corn losses range from 30 percent to complete destruction for non-irrigated fields, while the damage in soybeans and sugar beets is about 50 percent, the Rome-based agriculture group wrote in a statement August 9. Italy is Europe's third-largest corn grower behind France and Romania, and the region's largest importer of wheat. The drought has also caused —considerable losses in quality and quantity of fodder, sunflowers, tomatoes, summer fruits, grapes, and olives, the group wrote. Some areas face a —concerning year for mushrooms and chestnuts, it said. Italy's wine harvest has started, and production is forecast to fall 10 percent below the 5-year average because of heat and drought, the farm union Coldiretti said August 8. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-08-13/italy-s-crop-damage-from-drought-seen-close-to-1-billion-euros>

U.S. President orders \$30M more in farm drought aid. The U.S. President said he ordered an additional \$30 million to help crop and livestock farmers crippled by a —devastating and —historic drought, United Press International reported August 8. The U.S. Agriculture Department money is intended —to get more water to livestock and restore land impacted by drought, the President told reporters before a White House Rural Council meeting on the government's drought response. The administration has —already designated over 1,500 counties across 32 states as disaster areas, which gives qualified farmers access to low-interest emergency loans, the President said. —We've also opened up more land for haying and grazing, he said. —And we've worked with crop insurance companies to give farmers a short grace period on unpaid insurance premiums, since some families will be struggling to make ends meet at the end of this crop year. Source: http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2012/08/08/Obama-orders-30M-more-in-farm-drought-aid/UPI-14511344412800/?spt=hs&or=tn

Dioxin found in eggs on another German farm. The poisonous chemical dioxin has been found above permitted levels in eggs from another German farm following discoveries at eight other

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farms in the country since April, authorities said August 3. The poultry farm is near Aurich in the state of Lower Saxony, the Lower Saxony state agriculture ministry said. The discovery was made during routine checks at a collection center. The farm, which has 1,000 free-range hens, was sealed off and its eggs cannot be sold during the investigation. The ministry said there is no immediate danger to public health. Dioxin is dangerous only if consumed over long periods and small doses are not harmful. The previous dioxin discoveries were in eggs at farms in Lower Saxony and the neighboring state of North Rhine Westphalia. The cause of some outbreaks in Lower Saxony is suspected to be free range chickens living on earth contaminated by construction materials. Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2012/08/03/dioxin-found-in-eggs-on-another-german-farm/>

Thousands of fish die as Midwest streams heat up. Thousands of fish have died in the Midwest as the hot, dry summer dries up rivers and causes water temperatures to climb in some spots to nearly 100 degrees, the Associated Press reported August 5. About 40,000 shovelnose sturgeon were killed in Iowa the week of July 30 as water temperatures reached 97 degrees. Nebraska fishery officials said they have seen thousands of dead sturgeon, catfish, carp, and other species in the Lower Platte River, including the endangered pallid sturgeon. And biologists in Illinois said the hot weather has killed tens of thousands of large- and smallmouth bass and channel catfish, and is threatening the population of the greater redhorse fish, a State-endangered species. So many fish died in one Illinois lake that the carcasses clogged an intake screen near a power plant, lowering water levels to the point that the station had to shut down one of its generators. The fish are victims of one of the driest and warmest summers in history. The federal U.S. Drought Monitor shows nearly two-thirds of the lower 48 States are experiencing some form of drought, and the Department of Agriculture has declared more than half of the nation's counties — nearly 1,600 in 32 States — as natural disaster areas. Iowa Department of Natural Resource officials said the sturgeon found dead in the Des Moines River were worth nearly \$10 million, a high value based in part on their highly sought eggs, which are used for caviar. Source: <http://www.pekintimes.com/newsnow/x1253627187/Thousands-of-fish-die-as-Midwest-streams-heat-up>

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

Audit finds some holes in NASA's cybersecurity center. NASA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted an audit to evaluate the cybersecurity effectiveness of the agency's consolidated Security Operations Center (SOC), Government Computer News reported August 16. The audit found the SOC improved NASA's computer security incident handling by providing continuous incident detection coverage for all NASA centers, said a summary of the report released by NASA. However, it also found the SOC does not currently monitor all of NASA's computer networks. —Even though networks we reviewed had their own incident management program that included network monitoring, dedicated staff to respond to incidents and documented processes, the networks' management programs do not provide the centralized continuous monitoring coverage afforded by the SOC, it said. The OIG said NASA —needs to

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increase its readiness to combat sophisticated but increasingly common forms of cyber attacks known as Advanced Persistent Threats. The audit warned that —even after the target organization addresses the vulnerability that permitted the attack to succeed, the attacker may covertly maintain a foothold inside the target's system for future exploits. Source:

<http://gcn.com/articles/2012/08/16/nasa-ig-cybersecurity-report.aspx>

(Pennsylvania) FBI: Man in Ireland charged with Pitt bomb threats. A founding member of the Scottish National Liberation Army, an outlawed militant group, was indicted August 15 on charges he emailed bomb threats that disrupted campus life and forced the evacuation of more than 100 buildings on the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) campus in Pennsylvania earlier this year. The Dublin, Ireland man was charged with 17 emailed threats sent to the school April 6-21, and with emailed bomb threats against federal courthouses in Pittsburgh, Erie, and Johnstown in June. He is also charged with threatening a Pittsburgh-based U.S. attorney — who led the investigation that resulted in his indictment — in a June 20 email. Pitt began receiving bomb threats written on bathroom stalls in mid-February, for which nobody has yet been charged. The suspect, in custody in Ireland, allegedly sent his emails to capitalize on the momentum from the earlier threats. In all, the university received 52 threats against 160 buildings that prompted 136 evacuations, the Pitt chancellor said. The threats cost the school more than \$300,000 in direct expenses, including overtime for police and other staff, bomb squads, and special equipment to detect such devices. Federal prosecutors also announced new charges against two Ohio men for YouTube threats that claimed university computers had been hacked. Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hPPQfeJ-dqkhh-6t8rankZ2gzu7g?docId=f40a9bb21ef34dd681b9f107c61e85b1>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

NIST updates guide for dealing with computer security incidents. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) published the final version of its guide for managing computer security incidents. Based on best practices from government, academic, and business organizations, the guide includes a new section expanding on the important practice of coordination and information sharing among agencies. Government agencies face daily threats to computer networks. The Federal Information Security Management Act requires government agencies to establish incident response competencies, and NIST researchers revised the guidance in Computer Security Incident Handling Guide to cover challenges related to evolving threats. The revised NIST guide provides step-by-step instructions for new, or well-established, incident response teams to create a proper policy and plan. NIST recommends each plan should have a mission statement, strategies and goals, an organizational approach to incident response, metrics for measuring the response capability, and a built-in process for updating the plan as needed. Source: <http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=13408>

Internet attacks from China and US increased in first quarter of 2012, report says. China and the United States were the two largest sources of Internet-attack traffic in the first quarter of 2012, increasing to account for 16 percent and 11 percent respectively, according to Akamai Technologies. Attack traffic from China increased three percentage points compared to the last

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quarter of 2011, and attacks from the United States increased one percentage point in the same period, Akamai said in its First Quarter, 2012 State of the Internet report. Russia ranks third in the top 10 and generated 7 percent of all attack traffic, a slight increase compared to 2011's results. Over the past 4 years, the United States has been responsible for as little as 6.9 percent of attack traffic and as much as 22.9 percent, Akamai said. The highest concentration of attack traffic generated from China was observed in the third quarter of 2008 when the country was responsible for 26.9 percent of attack traffic, it added. Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9230124/Internet_attacks_from_China_and_US_increased_in_first_quarter_of_2012_report_says

Quantum cryptography theory has a proven security defect. Researchers at Tamagawa University, Quantum ICT Research Institute, announced August 7 that they proved the incompleteness and limit of the security theory in quantum key distribution. They showed the present theory cannot guarantee unconditional security. Until now, the majority of researchers in quantum information science believed quantum cryptography (quantum key distribution) can provide unconditional security. The guarantee of its unconditional security is given by the trace distance, which is a quantum version of the evaluation of a mathematical cipher. Source:

<http://www.net-security.org/secworld.php?id=13383&utm>

iCloud attack began with Amazon hack. In an article in Wired, a journalist who recently had several of his electronic accounts hacked explains how the attackers used flaws in Amazon's and Apple's customer service lines to expose his iCloud password. iCloud customer support requires a user's residential address and the last four digits of the registered credit card to generate a new password. The hackers obtained the journalist's residential address from records for a personal domain he registered. The last four digits of the credit card were obtained through Amazon. Apple told the New York Times it made a mistake when resetting the password, and protocols were not completely followed. However, the journalist said a colleague at Wired was able to reset a different Apple ID by replicating the same process the hackers used. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/iCloud-attack-began-with-Amazon-hack-1661646.html>

Volume of malware targeting Java CVE-2012-1723 flaw spikes. It has been nearly 2 months since Oracle patched the CVE-2012-1723 Java vulnerability, a serious remote pre-authentication flaw present in the Java Runtime Environment, Threatpost reported August 3. The first malware samples exploiting this vulnerability started appearing at the start of July, but they were intermittent. However, by the second week of July, the number of attacks on CVE-2012-1723 began to increase dramatically. Microsoft researchers compiled statistics that show the volume of malware targeting the Java flaw increased around July 10, and, surged and decreased in the interim, and it was still very high in early August. The vulnerability itself is in a JRE sub-component called Hotspot. Attackers who are able to exploit it will have the ability to execute arbitrary code on the target machine. Source: http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/volume-malware-targeting-java-cve-2012-1723-flaw-spikes-080312

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Virus led to EPA security breach of 8,000 users' personal data. More details are emerging from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) March security breach that affected nearly 8,000 users — including the conclusion that it was caused by a virus in an email attachment, possibly on a contractor's computer, Federal Computer Week reported August 3. The compromised servers contained data related to the Superfund program, which is almost entirely managed by contractors, said the Washington Business Journal, which originally reported the breach. The data, including Social Security numbers and bank account information, was exposed after an email attachment with a virus was opened on a computer with access privileges to the breached servers, according to reports. The CEO of IT security firm Route 1 said if a contractor was remotely accessing the servers, the EPA may have been exposed to malware and/or viruses on the contractor's computer. Source:

<http://fcw.com/articles/2012/08/03/epa-security-breach-contractors-virus.aspx>

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

Wildfires blaze across U.S. West, threaten Idaho towns. Wildfires in the West August 15, threatened to engulf two small towns in Idaho as firefighters managed to partially dampen a blaze that destroyed more than 60 homes in Washington State. Fires have blackened more than half a million acres across Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California, destroying homes and outbuildings, and forcing hundreds of people to evacuate. In Idaho, authorities told 1,000 residents in the communities of Featherville and Pine to prepare for evacuation ahead of a blaze that has consumed more than 63,000 acres. The Trinity Ridge fire erupted after a utility terrain vehicle caught fire August 3. The blaze was 5 percent contained, and roads to the two mountain desert towns southeast of Boise were blocked. Wildfires have consumed roughly 6 million acres across the nation so far in 2012, above the 10-year average of 4.9 million acres, figures from the National Interagency Fire Center show. In Washington State, firefighters battling the Taylor Bridge Fire tearing through areas between the towns of Cle Elum and Ellensburg said they hoped to have a quarter of the blaze under control by August 15. In California, 8,000 firefighters battled wildfires up and down the State that forced the evacuation of three southern California communities, closed parks and campgrounds, and threatened homes and a major power-transmission line. In San Diego County, five lightning-sparked fires charred 9,000 acres in and around Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The communities of San Felipe and Ranchita had to be evacuated, along with the park's campground. Since August 12, California's biggest fire, ignited by lightning, had burned nearly 100,000 acres and threatened a major natural gas line and transfer station as well as power transmission lines that supply the Reno area, said a fire information officer. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/16/us-usa-wildfires-west-idUSBRE87D15M20120816>

Forest Service gets more aggressive on small fires. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has directed supervisors on federal forest lands to temporarily abandon its policy of letting small fires keep burning in isolated areas, with rampant forest fires in the country's western half putting a strain on firefighting resources and concerns over the possibility of more fires in drought-stricken areas. ___We're concerned about how dry it is," said a USFS spokesman. ___It was this concern, and this comes down from our chief, that we need to get in and suppress fires early and not let

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them get ahead of us.” For years, the policy has been that supervisors on Forest Service land can opt to let fires burn if they start naturally, usually by lightning strikes, and are not a threat to nearby homes or other assets. Scientists view fires as a natural part of forest regeneration, making room for new growth and also diminishing future threat of larger fires by clearing areas of fuel sources. Source: <http://www.boston.com/news/nation/2012/08/08/forest-service-gets-more-aggressive-small-fires/6wM3Z3BJI5l1PjIMlzppDL/story.html>

(California) Fire crews battling wildfires in Sequoia National Forest. Dozens of firefighters were battling two separate wildfires August 5 that broke out in Kern County, California, after a series of lightning strikes that accompanied a weekend storm. The Clear fire, burning 12 miles south of Lake Isabella, consumed 514 acres since it was reported August 4, said an engineer and spokesman for the Kern County Fire Department. Eight miles away, the Heald fire spread through 313 acres in steep and rocky terrain. Lightning from a August 3 storm is believed to have caused the two blazes, both of which are in the Sequoia National Forest, as well as six others that were already contained. Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/08/fire-crews-battling-wildfires-in-sequoia-national-forest.html>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

(Minnesota) Mail carrier med delivery exercise has 95% success rate. U.S. Postal Service workers were able to deliver empty tablet containers to roughly 95 percent of the homes included in a May biological attack response exercise in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy reported August 9. May 6, participating mail distribution personnel dropped off the containers and informational brochures to some 33,000 residences around the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, according to an assessment of the bioresponse exercise issued in recent days by the Minnesota Health Department. The exercise was part of a broader U.S. government effort to make ready for a feared bioterror attack that could involve weaponized anthrax, smallpox, or other highly lethal disease agents. In the event of a such an attack, volunteer mail carriers would be mobilized to quickly deliver stockpiled medical countermeasures to residents in affected areas. The deliveries would complement distribution of countermeasures at fixed-location centers. Source:

<http://www.nti.org/gsn/article/mail-carrier-med-delivery-exercise-has-95-success-rate/>

(Texas) Suspicious powder at local postal facility prompts HAZMAT response. Texas’s Waco Fire Department’s HAZMAT team responded August 4 after workers discovered a suspicious white powder at a mail-processing center. The powder spilled onto a pallet. There was no immediate indication the substance was dangerous and tests showed it was harmless. Units cleared the scene hours later. Other details were not immediately available. Source: <http://www.kwtx.com/home/headlines/Suspicious-Powder-At-Local-Postal-Facility-Prompts-HAZMAT-Response-165002036.html>

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PUBLIC HEALTH

FDA advises scans for some St. Jude patients. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) August 16 advised patients who have heart devices that include several types of wires made by St. Jude Medical Inc. to have an X-ray or another type of scan to detect potential problems with the wire's insulation. The FDA recommended the scans for patients who have implantable heart devices with Riata or Riata ST wires. The wires, which are called leads, attach a defibrillator to a patient's heart. The defibrillators are lifesaving devices implanted in the chest to correct dangerous heart rhythms that can be fatal. They monitor the heart for irregular beats, occasionally triggering electrical shocks that correct the problem. However if the insulation is eroded, there is a greater chance the device could malfunction and either deliver a shock when none is needed, or fail to shock the patient's heart when it is not beating properly. The FDA said the scans could reveal abnormalities with the insulation, but it is not recommending that all patients have the wires removed. It said that decision should be made after careful consideration of the risks and benefits for each patient. St. Jude stopped selling the Riata wires in late 2010 because of concerns about the insulation, and it recalled the devices in late 2011. Around 79,000 Riata leads are implanted in U.S. patients, and the FDA ordered St. Jude to conduct a 3-year study to learn more about the risk of insulation failure. The FDA said most of the devices were functioning normally, but that more information was needed. Source: <http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/19298018/fda-advises-scans-for-some-st-jude-patients>

Wall of Shame' exposes 21M medical record breaches. Over the past 3 years about 21 million patients have had their medical records exposed in data security breaches that were big enough to require they be reported to the federal government, Computerworld reported August 7. Since September 2009, 477 breaches affected 500 people or more each have been reported to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In total, the health records of 20,970,222 people have been compromised, the OCR said, and 6 health care organizations reported security breaches that involved 1 million or more records. Theft made up 54 percent of the breaches, while hacking made up only 6 percent of the compromised data. Theft was followed by unauthorized access or disclosure for 20 percent, lost records and devices for 11 percent, improper disposal of records made up 5 percent, and other/unknown categories made up 4 percent. About 55,000 breach reports involving fewer than 500 records were also reported to the OCR from 2009, according to a senior health information privacy specialist with OCR. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9230028/Wall_of_Shame_exposes_21M_medical_record_breaches

(California) Woman who tried to kidnap newborn posed as nurse, police say. The Los Angeles Times reported that police said a woman arrested August 6 for allegedly trying to kidnap a newborn from a Garden Grove, California hospital was wearing a hospital nurse uniform and had an official-looking hospital ID. The suspect posed as an employee of Garden Grove Hospital Medical Center and entered a room where a mother and her newborn were resting in bed. After distracting the mother, the suspect stashed the newborn —into a large tote bag she had brought with her, police said. She then left the room. The abduction triggered an alert

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throughout the hospital, and staff members were able to stop the suspect and recover the infant. The baby was safely returned to the mother. Source:

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2012/08/woman-who-tried-to-kidnap-newborn-posed-as-nurse-at-hospital.html>

CDC: Increase seen in new swine flu strain. Health officials reported an uptick in cases of a new strain of swine flu in humans. The latest flu report published August 3 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated 16 people have been infected with a new strain of an influenza A (H3N2) swine flu virus in the past 3 weeks, including 12 the week of July 23. Among those 12 newest cases, the CDC said 10 people were infected in Ohio; Indiana and Hawaii have reported one case each as well. So far 29 people have been infected with this new H3N2 strain. Nobody was hospitalized this year, and only three of the 12 cases in 2011 required hospitalization. Nobody has died from this new flu. Everyone diagnosed with the new strain in 2012 reported having contact with pigs. Most of the cases from 2011 also reported contact with pigs — often at county or State fairs. H3N2 flu viruses are common among pigs. They are a subgroup of influenza A viruses and are known to adapt in humans. What makes this new version of the H3N2 flu virus different is that it has picked up a gene from the novel H1N1 flu virus that became a pandemic 3 years ago. Source:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/08/03/health/swine-flu-cases/index.html>

(California) West Nile deaths put officials on edge. An elderly woman became California's first casualty of the West Nile Virus August 3. Across the nation, there have already been 241 cases of the virus reported this year, the most at this point since 2004. A spokesman for Kern Mosquito and Vector Control District said a mild winter caused an explosion of mosquitoes earlier than usual. As a result, mosquito control units have had a hard time eliminating mosquito breeding grounds, which can pop up almost anywhere. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control said the number of West Nile cases usually peaks around mid-August. Source:

http://www.necn.com/08/05/12/West-Nile-deaths-put-officials-on-edge/landing_nation.html?blockID=751667&feedID=4207

TRANSPORTATION

New York-Moscow jet makes emergency landing after bomb threat. A passenger jet flying from New York to Moscow made an emergency landing in Iceland August 16 after a caller claimed there was a bomb on board, a spokeswoman for Russian airline Aeroflot said. The manager at Reykjavik's Keflavik International Airport told NBC News the Airbus A330 with 253 passengers on board landed safely August 16 and the plane was evacuated. —There was an anonymous call saying that there was an explosive device on the plane, which was already in the air, spokesman said. Police planned to search the aircraft. Emergency teams also searched an airplane in the city of Voronezh, 300 miles south of Moscow, for explosives after an anonymous phone call was made to the city's airport, but no bomb was found, state-run RIA reported. Source: <http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/news/2012/08/16/13308828-new-york-moscow-jet-makes-emergency-landing-after-bomb-threat?lite>

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FAA suspends operation that led to near-collision. The Associated Press reported August 7 that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) stated it will bar airports nationwide from using a traffic-reversing operation that led to a close call July 31 at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Arlington, Virginia. No commercial airports will be able to use the maneuver, in which controllers direct some planes to take off and land from the opposite of the usual direction, until a standardized procedure can be put in place, aviation officials said. The FAA expects to have new procedures in place within a month, said the FAA chief operating officer. In the meantime, airports can only use the maneuver — known as —opposite-direction operations — in emergencies. The FAA made the change after the incident involving three U.S. Airways commuter flights that got too close to one another. At the time of the incident, air traffic controllers had been changing the direction planes were landing and taking off at the airport because of bad weather developing to the airport's south. The miscommunication occurred between a regional air traffic control center in Virginia that guides planes into area airports and controllers in the tower at Reagan. Another major issue raised by the incident is that managers at the regional control center were also performing administrative tasks, even when traffic was heavy or complex and required their undivided attention. The FAA chief operating officer said the FAA will ensure that in the future, managers are not multitasking while handling complicated air traffic. In addition to creating new procedures, the FAA also said it is working with the National Air Traffic Controllers Association to determine what additional training, including more radar training, is necessary to ensure planes do not come too close to one another. Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/FAA-suspends-operation-that-led-to-near-collision-3768914.php>

(New York) Troy man arrested for stealing copper wire from railroad bridge. Police arrested a Troy, New York man on felony charges after they said he stole copper cable from the Waterford-Cohoes railroad bridge in Waterford, New York, and severed communication between trains and their central railroad dispatcher. The police charged the man with felony grand larceny, felony criminal mischief, reckless endangerment, criminal tampering, possession of stolen property, and criminal trespass August 2, the Saratoga Springs Saratogian reported August 3. Police said he stole roughly 1,000 feet of signal wire from the railroad bridge July 15. A Waterford Public Safety commissioner stated the theft caused railroad communication to be cut off for about 15 minutes. Source: <http://troyrecord.com/articles/2012/08/03/news/doc501b69f97c947921887668.txt>

(Washington) Police searching for suspect after Ferndale freeway threat. After a lengthy manhunt and the closure of Interstate 5 for several hours, police in Ferndale, Washington, were asking for the public's help in tracking down a man believed to have been aiming a rifle at drivers, KING 5 Seattle reported August 5. Someone called 9-1-1, saying they saw a male on the Smith Road Overpass wearing a dark hoodie and holding what appeared to be a rifle. Ferndale units were dispatched and arrived within minutes. The first officer saw what he believed to be a flash muzzle of a rifle, pointed in the northerly direction from an overpass. The Whatcom County Sheriff's Office responded, in addition to Bellingham police, Ferndale police, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. They closed down I-5 from the Slader Road exit, just south of the overpass, to the Main Street Exit, which is north of the overpass. Source:

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<http://www.king5.com/news/local/Police-searching-for-suspect-after-Ferndale-freeway-closure-165078696.html>

WATER AND DAMS

(New York) Damaged pipe led to sinkhole along Erie Canal. A damaged culvert pipe was the cause of a partial embankment collapse along the Erie Canal in Orleans County, New York, Your News Now Rochester reported August 8. Officials with the State Canal Corporation said the pipe was located 9 feet below the bottom of the Erie Canal. A 25-mile-long section of the canal remained closed between Middleport in Niagara County and Holley in Orleans County. The area had to be completely drained to locate the problem and complete the repairs. One hundred and eight feet of replacement pipe arrived on site August 8, but the Canal Corporation said there is no specific timeline on when the repairs would be complete. Source:

http://rochester.ynn.com/content/top_stories/594590/damaged-pipe-led-to-sinkhole-along-erie-canal/

(Nevada) Man surrenders after standoff with SWAT at Hoover Dam. A security breach at the Hoover Dam near Las Vegas, stalled traffic for hours after a pickup truck blew through a security checkpoint and sparked a SWAT team standoff August 7. Police raised a barrier to trap the driver after he barreled through the checkpoint. According to police, the man then barricaded himself inside the truck until he surrendered about 90 minutes later. Source:

http://www.mynews3.com/content/news/local/story/Man-surrenders-after-standoff-with-SWAT-at-Hoover/iYn-2R5NkkOveJd_w24jEQ.csp

HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center:** 866-885-8295(IN ND ONLY); Email: ndslic@nd.gov; Fax: 701-328-8175 **State Radio:** 800-472-2121; **Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI):** 701-328-5500; **North Dakota Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455; **US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst:** 701-297-7400; **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875; **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241.

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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